Amnsements and Meetings Co-Night.

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FIFTH AVESUE THEATER.—"School for Scandal."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"Crabbed Age."
LTCREM THEATER.—"King Richard II." Booth.
NIELO'S GARDEN.—"Baba." GARDEN.—"Baba."
NOVELTY THEATER.—2 and 8: Variety. PARK THECTER.—" Musette." Lotte.

BAN FEANCISCO MINSTELLS.—Minstrelsy and Burlesque.

TONY PASTOR'S NEW THEATER.—Variety.

TWENTY-THIRD STREET OPERA HOUSE.—2 and 8: Kelly
& Leon's Minstrels.

UNION SOUARE THEATER.—" Miss Multon."

WALLACK'S THEATER.—" The Shaughraum."

CRURCH OF THE HOLY TEINITY .- 4: Concert. GILMORE'S GARDEN .- 2 and 8: Barnum's Entertain MELLER'S WONDER THEATER. - Magical and Musical Performance.

Masonic Tenent.,—Prof. Cromwell.

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New-Dork Daily Tribune. FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1876.

TRIPLE SHEET.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-Prince Bismarck spoke in Parliament on the Eastern question, declaring that Germany would remain neutral. = The Turks threaten to revictual Nicsic by force. ____ A new Anglo-Amer- gations have been concluded. ican extradition treaty has been negotiated; Brent, the forger, has accordingly been rearrested. === The Duke d'Audiffret-Pasquier declines to form a new French ministry; President MacMahon is to confer with the Presidents of the Senate and Chamber to-day.

DOMESTIC.-Louisiana has been declared for Hayes by 3,500 majority; the Republicans have 24 majority in the Leg:slature, and 4 out of 6 Congressmen. Gov. Chamberlain was declared elected in South Carolina by 3,000-majority; Wade Hampton said in a speech he would be Governor or the State would have a military executive. = Gov. Tilden held a date he was elected to vote for, would come reception in Albany. === The trial of Jarvis Lord under a vastly heavier condemnation. He in the Stanwix Hall case was begun.

CONGRESS .- The Senate debated and adopted the Southern resolution offered by Mr. Edmunds. Mr. Morton revived his bill providing for the election of President and Vice-President by direct vote of the people. — In the House, the Hewitt resolution had a narrow escape from failure of adoption.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-The Brooklyn Theater and adjoining dwelling-houses were destroyed by fire. = It is expected that John Kelly will be nominated for the Controllership to-morrow, and that Controller Green will refuse to give up the office == Gold 10812, 10828, 10818. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 92510 cents. Stocks opened dull and dechning, but later were active,

THE WEATHER.-THE TRIBUNE'S local observations indicate clear or party cloudy and slightly warmer weather. In this city yesterday the day was cool and clear; thermometer, 27°, 35°, 28°,

We shall know to-day who it is that can be called hereafter the President elect. Under ordinary circumstances this would settle things; even now it will seem like one step toward it.

None but criminals will complain that an Anglo-American extradition treaty is in a fair way to be reëstablished. It may be that the Turkish complications have incited the British Government to remove hastily all differences with this country.

Speaker Randall seems to think the new Republican leader is a good man to keep at a safe distance. He has scarcely started back from Louisiana before the Speaker proposes to send him to Florida. Gen. Garfield can be trusted to see the point.

One of the two theaters in Brooklyn that deserve the name was destroyed by fire last night, and a number of the audience were injured in the papic that followed the alarm. The catastrophe will not have happened in vain if it directs public attention to the insecurity of many places of amusement, and of some prominent ones that might be named in our own city.

Gov. Chamberlain has been declared elected by the Legislature, the Supreme Court to the contrary notwithstanding. The canvass of the votes by the Legislature threw out the votes of Edgefield and Laurens counties, and gave Gov. Chamberlain a majority of 3,044. There are still two Houses, and there are likely soon to be two Governors. Wade Hampton must thank the Supreme Court again for being too it and into one for which, as he says, he had

Double-headed electoral colleges are the latest political novelty. There is to be one in Alabama, where, it is said, the candidates on the Hayes electoral ticket will meet and vote, and there is to be another in Louisiana, where the Tilden electors will vote, and forward their ballot, under the certificate of John McEnery as Governor. Considering that Mr. McEnery has not for a long time made any pretense to the place, this will be a ghostly performance

In the Report of the Director of the Mint. the silver question is very freely discussed. The course recommended is practically intermediate between the extreme theories of those who would have silver the sole currency, and of mistakes made by the President must of those who insist that it should only be legal be divided between him and "the rep-tender for fractions of a dollar. The most | "resentatives chosen directly by the people,"

agreeable feature of the report is its estimate that already there is half enough gold coin in the country to meet the need when specie payments shall be resumed.

President MacMahon being willing to accept a Ministry in harmony with the French Legislature, some progress will doubtless be made in that direction at the conference which he is to hold to-day with the Presidents of both branches. He approves, unconsciously perhaps, our executive system in proposing that the Minister of War shall be unaffected by parliamentary changes. He evidently desires to secure for the military department a reasonable degree of independence.

Whatever may be the partisan spirit in which the Democratic Committee will go South, they will certainly be headed by three of the best Democrats in the House. Mr. Thompson of Massachusetts is Chairman of the Florida Committee, Mr. Morrison of the committee which goes to Louisiana, and Mr. Sayler of that which goes to South Carolina. These gentlemen are all strong partisans, but they are nevertheless men whom the country has learned to respect. It is a fortunate thing for all of us that the House of Representatives sends out such depu-

The identification of Gov. Tilden's former Canal Commission with Gov. Tilden's political fortunes is now complete. Mr. Orr, the only member who had not heretofore openly joined the Democratic ranks, was elected yesterday to fill a vacancy in the Electoral College, and will cast his vote to-day for Mr. Tilden. Mr. Bigelow, the other member appointed as a Republican, was elected Secretary of State in the same year over the Republican candidate. Mr. Magone has been at the head of the Democratic organization since that time, and Mr. Van Buren has held a State office. Nevertheless we have never seen any proof that the Commission was not faithful and successful in the work set before it, or any denial that those who have been elected to State offices are not equally faithful there.

In Louisiana the agony is over. The Returning Board declares the majority of the lowest Hayes elector to be 3,435 over the highest Tilden elector. The election of Packard is announced by a smaller majority. The Legislature is Republican by a considerable majority, thus securing the election of two Republicans to the United States Senate, and four Republican Congressmen are returned out of six. Our New-Orleans dispatches report that the news was received there as a matter of course, as indeed it will be everywhere. The detailed reasons for this result cannot now be given, but their nature is already well known to all our readers. It is understood, however, that this issue was reached, not by the throwing out of whole parishes, but of polling places where the vote was alleged not to have been fair and free. Probably all the details will not be discovered until the Congressional investi-

The recital in another column of the fate of Winans, who sold his vote, and with it the control of the Assembly of this State, to the Democrats some years ago, faithful as it is, gives but a faint idea of the curse that fell upon the man, breaking up his household and driving him from the face of his own flesh and blood to wander in foreign lands, branded as with the brand of Cain. The man who should betray his party to-day and vote against the candiwould be fairly shriveled up in the wrath of his party and the people. This is the one consideration which has made all the sentimental advice of the quidnunes on this subject so silly. No obscure man, no matter how free his action might be from sordid motives, could do such a thing without having his character blackened for all time to come; no distinguished man, no matter how far his reputation raised him above the possibility of suspicion, could do it without blasting all his fu- ure, it was only his misfortune, while it was ture and overturning all his past. The courage can hardly exist that would cast a die like this. For that reason we expect to see all the Tilden votes cast for Mr. Tilden, and all the Haves votes cast for Mr. Hayes, though many a man's fingers may be itching to write the name he dare not vote.

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.

President Grant's last annual message bears in itself the refutation of the remors which for the past week or more have been in circulation connecting certain prominent persons with its preparation and authorship. It is of course in its details more or less a compilation from the reports of the several heads of departments, as are all public documents of a similar character, but in its essential features it is too characteristic to leave any doubt as to its being the President's own production. It bears the unmistakable impress of President Grant's peculiarities throughout. His vivid personality and apparently unconscious self-consciousness, his sensitiveness to criticism, his dogged adherence to his opinions upon obsolete questions, and his persistence in thrusting them forward with no apparent object but to illustrate his obstinacy, are all conspicuous in this his last annual message. And yet there is something of pathos in the opening sentences which cannot but disarm criticism, and which, as much in the reading between the lines as in the matter itself, is really an appeal to the sympathy of the country, and a petition for gentler judgment than that to which he has been used, from his cotemporaries and from history. It was his "fortune or misfor-"tune," he says, "to be called to the office of "Chief Executive without any previous political "training." Something of confession of a primal lack of equipment for the place there is in this, but much more of suggested rebuke for the people who, in blind idolatry of the greatness he had shown in the place for which he was trained and qualified, lifted him out of slow. That august body is always just too late. no training. With mingled sadness and regret and such candor as makes us willing to draw a vail over and forget it all, he says, "Mistakes have been made, as 'all can see, and I admit"-but he does not conclude the sentence without the word of reproof that stands him in the stead of vindication-" oftener," he adds, "in the selections made of the assistants appointed to aid in carrying out the various duties of administering the Government, in nearly every "case selected without a personal acquaintance "with the appointee, but upon recommenda-"tions of the representatives chosen directly "by the people." It is the Doge of Venice-"I am not innocent, but are these guiltless ?"

And the reproof is by no means undeserved.

The responsibility for the great majority

variably sustained bad appointments. Here, too, is a suggestion of a much-needed reform in the civil service which ought to have weight as being not merely the notion of a theorist, but the result of eight years' practical experience in the Executive office.

It is not strange, when we consider President

Grant's character and history, how he was taken

from a position which was the culmination

and consummation of a successful military career-a place of almost undisturbed repose and the highest honor-and placed in an office full of annoyances and difficulties for which he had no training, and which exposed him to the largest criticism, and how he has been hampered and harassed, betrayed by friends and beset by foes,-it is not strange that under such circumstances he should devote a considerable portion of his last annual message to something like a vindication of his administration. The sad thing about it is that he should be obliged to admit so much in the way of mistake and failure, and should go out of office with an apology. The recapitulation in which he indulges is not a grand review in lofty periods of the stately steppings of the nation in its royal progress; it is apologetic rather; a confession of weakness and appeal for charitable judgment. We gladly concede his that he has "acted in every instance "from a conscientious desire to do what was right, constitutional, within the law, and for the very best interests of the whole people." We do believe his "failures have been 'errors of judgment and not of intent." Following the enumeration of the difficulties which beset his administration at the outset, and his admission that mistakes have been made, is the claim that during seven years there has been a large reduction of the National debt and of Federal taxes, and a change in our favor in the balance of trade. No one will deny the justness of the claim or refuse his administration the credit it deserves therefor. His references to foreign relations and domestic affairs contained in the body of the message are for the most part merely formal, being abstracts or summaries of departmental reports, without any specific recommendations. He takes special pains, however, to put in a good word for Secretary Robeson, who he thinks has been unfairly criticised, but to whose practical action he thinks it is due "that we have at this time any effective navy force at command." Concerning the Presidential question, which he was expected to discuss somewhat at length, he says practically nothing, contenting himself with recommending the adoption of an educational test as a qualification for electors-a measure which commends itself strongly to the good sense of the people. As to the present disputed election and the questions arising out of it, he is entirely silent. The closing paragraphs of the message are devoted, singularly enough, to a restatement of the argument in favor of the Santo Domingo scheme, not, as he says, as a recommendation for the renewal of the subject of annexation, but to vindicate his previous action in regard to it. There could be no better illustration of the President's amazing obstinacy of character. The Santo Domingo scheme was probably one of the worst blunders of his administration. It divided and in the end almost destroyed the party, but it had passed out of people's minds and might bave been forgotten, had not the President in the last paragraph of his last annual message thus strangely revived it. Just as he goes out of sight he lifts his head above the wave and says, "Nevertheless-Santo "Domingo."

The message is that of a man who is tired of public life and weary of political strife. It is a confession that his civil career has not been a success, and a plea for charitable judgment, or at least for division of the blame. It is only just to say of him that his military services entitled him to the country's gratithe blame of it, and remember with satisfaction that at least in one instance-his veto of the Inflation bill-his administration was alike honorable to himself and serviceable to the country.

THE TREASURY-SPECIE PAYMENTS.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury is the hardest of hard-money documents. The Secretary insists on resumption in 1879, recommends a gradual but immediate contraction of the currency, opposes the notion of paying the bonds in silver, and declares that the mere agitation of the subject may add one-fourth to the interest burden of the country.

The Secretary's plan for the resumption of specie payments has the merits of simplicity and directness. He presents no new-fangled notions. He thinks it impossible to procure suddenly, at the time of resumption, an amount of gold equal to the outstanding greenbacks, and believes that a gradual and continuous hoarding of so much between this time and the date of resumption would be injurious to trade. He wishes, however, to accumulate as much as possible, and points out that a reduction in current expenditures relieves the Department from the necessity of selling gold received for customs to meet the ordinary wants of the Treasury, and thus enables it to increase the gold balance. He believes specie payments can be resumed under the provisions of the bill of 1875, with the following additional powers, which he asks Congress to grant:

I. The power to fund greenbacks henceforth at his discretion in a 412 per cent thirty years' bond.

II. The power to require the National banks to accumulate coin at such a rate that by 1879 they shall have in gold their entire legal

III. The power to increase the volume of silver in circulation in small coins to the amount of \$80,000,000.

IV. The power to make silver a legal tender to the amount of \$10 for all debts, excepting the obligations of the Government of the United States and the Customs.

We do not entertain a doubt that these provisions would make resumption in 1879 secure and comparatively easy. The objections to hoarding gold in such amounts as to provide in this way for resumption have all along been recognized. But the Treasury problem is vastly simplified by the obvious plethora of currency, and the un-usual stagnation in business which would make a gradual contraction for a time absolutely imperceptible. Under the operations of the act of June, 1874, authorizing National banks to withdraw their circulation in whole or in part, the total decrease in circulation up to the 1st of November last has been, in round numbers, \$43,500,000. Yet nobody felt that contraction was going on. Nobody, in fact, had the least knowledge of

who in many instances advised and almost m- it in any other way than from the Treasury and shot them down if they ventured reports. With \$43,500,000 contraction, every money center still remains absolutely gorged; and it has been found impossible during more than half of the past twelve months to lend on the best collateral at over two to three per cent. Who can jects. The success which they have doubt the Secretary's conclusion that "the vol-"ume of currency is largely in excess of the " real demands of legitimate business, and that "a portion of the legal tenders might be grad-" ually withdrawn without embarrassment to

" the business of the country?" The Secretary does not dogmatize on the Silver question, and for that we thank him. The best political economists and financial authorities both in this country and in Europe are divided concerning it. Obviously no one has yet been able to say the final word on the subject, no party is agreed about it, and no Secretary of the Treasury would wisely undertake on a doubtful topic, as yet little understood, a policy that would bring him into instant conflict with half his own supporters. But what Mr. Morrill leaves out in theorizing, he abundantly makes up in common-sense, practical suggestions. The law, he frankly admits, does not, in terms, prevent the payment of every dollar of our war debt in silver. But the popular impression at the time the debt was contracted was that "coin" meant gold. The interest was paid in gold. The customs dues were set aside for this purpose, and they were exacted in gold. If anybody had supposed that silver could be so used would it not have been resorted to? The act of 1873, limiting the legal-tender quality of silver to sums of five dollars or less, was taken as a matter of course-it merely conformed to the popular understanding of the case. Foreign exchanges were all made on the gold basis, and the Treasury was authorized to receive and issue certificates for gold, not silver, coin and bullion. In a word, the officers who sold the bonds expected to pay them in gold; the men who bought the bonds never heard nor dreamed of payment in anything else. To such practical suggestions, bearing upon the policy rather than the technical right of payment in silver, the Secretary adds the following weighty opinion:

It is a matter of deep public concern that a policy s beneficent in results and advantageous to the futur should receive no detriment from conflicting interests policies, or theories. Whatever may be thought of the right to pay these public securities in cheaper money, it will remain true that it is lawful to pay them in gold coin, that the belief that they were to be so paid has a practical value in the proba ble reduction of the public debt equal to ene-fourth of the amount of the annual interest thereon; that the coin payment to which the faith of the nation was pledged in 1869 was gold and not silver, and that any other view of it, whatever technical construction the language may b susceptible of, would be regarded as of doubtful good faith, and its probable effect prejudicial to the public

On other points the Secretary's report is encouraging. The Department has a right to plame itself on the accuracy of its estimates of receipts and expenditures. While for the past year it somewhat overrated the revenues, it also overrated the expenses almost precisely as much, so that the net difference between the estimates and the result for the entire year was barely \$13,000-a degree of exactness rarely attained in such calculations. ,The Secretary estimates revenues for the current year to the amount of \$264,000,000, and expenditures to the amount of \$237,000, 000. The surplus revenues will, however, fall below the amount needed for the Sinking Fund by not less than \$7,000,000.

For several years since the war a liberal compliance with the requirements of the Sinking Fund law was found impracticable; but the net result from July, 1862, to July, 1876, shows a reduction of the debt amounting to \$657,000,000, whereas the Sinking Fund law would only have required \$134,000,000. It is fair, therefore, to say that all the pledges and the obligations of the Government con cerning the cancellation of the public debt have been more than met-a fact which fairly accounts for the gratifying credit the country enjoys in the money markets of the world The internal revenue continues to be derived almost exclusively from four sources - liquors, tobacco, banks, and stamps. The Secretary makes no suggestions as to the proper collection of these taxes, and, indeed, confines himself on this and many other points to a statement of the business, as submitted to him by the various Bureaus. It was natural that an officer whose term of service had been so short should do little in the way of attempting to improve

upon the routine work of the Department. What he has done on the more pressing subject of Specie Payments entitles him to the public gratitude, and a continuance of the con-tidence he has so long enjoyed,

THE INDIAN POLICY.

The President during his entire administration has manifested intense interest in the Indian policy of the Government, and it is, therefore, a matter for surprise that in his review of his civil career his reference to this subject is so brief. His reticence, however, is explained when we come to read the report of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary's presentment of the Indian question is so full and so intelligent that the President had no need to do more than refer to the report as embodying his own views. In committing bimself to the conclusions of the Secretary he adopts a far more progressive policy than he has favored in his previous messages. It is more business-like and sagacious and less sentimental than the original Indian policy of his administration. It is brought forward under propitious circum stances, in spite of the disastrous Summer campaign on the Yellowstone and the exploits of Sitting Bull. As we used to say in war time, the backbone of the Sioux rebellion has been broken, and there is every indication that Gen. Crook's winter campaign will result in the surrender of Custer's murderers. But this is not all. scandals which once clouded the Indian service have been dispelled. The statesmanship which assumes the title of Christian lies no longer under the reproach of lacking honesty and common decency. The Administration is at last in a position to define is Indian policy without being forced to apologize for gross mismanagement and corruption. What Mr. Chandler regards as the true In-

dian policy is very clearly outlined in his report. Its crowning aim is to teach the Indian to support himself. But the logic of self-support points unerringly to the rights of citizenship. If we can train an Indian to feed and clothe himself we can educate him to be a useful citizen. The Secretary recognizes this, for he declares, without reservation, that the tribal system must be abolished. This has always been the fatal defect in our Indian policy. We have treated the Indians as independent nations; we have made treaties with them, and whenever it turnal visits; the blacks flying from their tone. He was 67 years old.
was convenient we have broken the bonds homes and taking refuge in swamps; the The handwriting of most American authors

to accuse us of treachery. The Canadians have done better than this. They have kept faith with the red man. He has not been regarded as a member of an independent tribe, but as one of Her Majesty's Indian subachieved in dealing with the Indians and converting them into peaceable citizens throws light upon our own failures and blunders. When the Secretary advocates the extension of the privileges of citizenship to the Indian Territory he goes to the root of the matter. He well says: "The sooner the "idea of considering and treating the various "tribes in the Indian Territory as possessing "a sort of independent power and national-"ity is done away with, the earlier we "will reach some practical solution " of the embarrassments which now surround "the question of their government." This is the point which good Bishop Whipple in the North-West has raised again and again. The missionaries who labor among the tribes preach to those who believe already the cardinal doctrines of the immortality of the soul and the existence of the Great Spirit, and it is not strange that they are wonderfully successful in their work. Many of the Indians at White Earth and in the Indian Territory have made great progress in civilization, and are now ripe for citizenship and self-government. There is no reason why they should not have the privileges of citizenship. There is no reason why the jurisdiction of the United States courts should not be extended over them. There is no reason why they should not have some form of territorial and representative government based upon republican ideas.

Mr. Chandler seems to think it necessary to protect the Indian Territory from the encroachments of white settlement. He would give a certain amount of land to every Indian, and prohibit its transfer to any white man. Indeed, he would restrict the transfer of land from one Indian to another, and would people the whole Territory with tribes. We are not sure that he is right in these respects. If black and white can own land and vote together under State laws, red and white can do the same in the Far West. The Indian should be trained up to the obligations and privileges of American government-not red men's government. We do not lay the same stress upon the exclusive occupancy of the Territory by Indians that the Secretary does, and we incline to the belief that it will be wiser to concentrate the Indians upon a few large reservations than to overcrowd the Indian Territory. We commend his suggestions, however, to the thoughtful consideration of all who are interested in one of the most complex problems of American government and civilization.

POST-OFFICE MANAGEMENT.

The advance that a nation is making in civilization can be fairly gauged by the amount of its postal business. While the franking privilege was in operation, no such comparison could be accurately made in this country, since the exigencies of a political campaign might in any year load the mails with an increased number of packages and add heavily to the expenditure but not at all to the revenue. Under the present system, when the Postmaster-General reports that the annual deficit of his department is largely reduced, two facts are indicated; that the postal business has been economically managed, and that the people have sent an increased number of letters and newspapers through the mails. Both these conditions are shown in this year's report: two million dollars-a third of the whole deficiency of the previous twelvemonth -were saved last year. Part of this great improvement is due to the admirable system and business-like management that have characterized the Post-Office; part to the remarkable and unexpected increase of the amount of mail matter in the past year. The first of these features bears a direct relation to the second; it is in great measure because the postal facilities bave been improved, and people can send and receive letters and papers with more certainty and frequency, that they use the mails more. Part of the increase of mail matter may ascribed to the more frequent occasion for letter-writing indirectly produced by the Centennial Exhibition, since the crowds that went to Philadelphia kept up an unusual correspondence with their friends, before, at, and after each visit; they read more newspapers and generally obtained more enlarged ideas. A good portion of this improvement, measured by the increase of correspondence, will doubtless be found permanent. Steps of that sort never lead backward.

This result is the more remarkable because the year past has been one of depression in all branches of business. The hard times did indeed show their effect on one branch of post office work; the total amounts sent by money orders had been increasing each year from the beginning of the system till June 30, 1875; since then the annual amount has decreased a little. The Postmaster-General thinks that this decrease is not connected with the beavier charge that is now made for money orders. Although the money order system does not yet pay its way, the increase of its fees brings it more nearly to that desirable point. Another year's experience will settle the question whether high fees diminish the amounts and number of money orders; if that proves to be the case, a return to the old rates would seem advisable. The use of money orders should not be discouraged, even

though they are issued at a loss. The report urges a better method of fixing valaries of postmasters at fourth-class offices. The reasons for this proposed change are very plainly given. To sum them up in a few words, the department does not wish to expose its employés to undue temptation. In this matter, as in other respects, the report shows the spirit in which the Post-Office is conducted. No department exhibits more evidence and fruit of genuine civil service reform.

THE PINKSTON OUTRAGE.

The staff correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at

New-Orleans, in a letter published this morning, gives a careful statement of the murder of Henry Pinkston, of the violence offered to his wife, and of the brutal killing of their child. Mr. White, a man of large experience, declares that "it is a long time since he has been so shocked by the recital of any crime," and that to "the worst phase" of the story "there is no other side." There is a perfect coherence in the statements of Mrs. Pinkston, and her narrative is one which it would have been hardly possible for such a woman to invent. These dreadful deeds are not to be sneered down, scoffed down, sophisticated into a misdemeanor, nor cross-examined into trifles unworthy of public consideration. There are those who may have an interest in discrediting Mrs. Pinkston's testimony; but it is the whole situation which they have to encounter-the semi-military, semi-political, clubs; the nocturnal visits; the blacks flying from their

withholding of employment from the laborers the persecuted, with bullets in their bodies. crawling for succor and medical treatment to the quarters of Federal soldiers; the raids, the burnings, and the mysterious assassinations All these could have but two objects-either to prevent the colored men from voting at all, or to keep them from voting the Republican ticket. Our correspondent in a previous letter, while suspending his judgment, found in the facts "a sufficient explanation either "for a general absence of the negro voters "from the polls, or for their desertion of their " party." If the fundamental condition of the amnesty which gave again to this and other Southern States their former place in the Union is repudiated in this way, and

the right of colored citizens to vote greatly abridged, it is time that the fact was officially known. The penalty which the Fourteenth Amendment provides is one that the South would feel to its inmost soul. With its representation in Congress reduced in the same proportion that the rightful vote has been wrongfully abridged, the solid South wouldn't mean so much as it does now, and it might not be so solid.

THE HOUSE CASE Events have vindicated, though in an indi-

rect way, the excellent reputation of New-Jersey justice. Mrs. House, indicted and tried for the murder of her husband, and acquitted upon some indefinite notion of self-defense, has, after a sufficient medical inquest, been committed to the State Lunatic Asylum. Of her insanity there can be no question in the minds of those who have read the extraordinary letters which she has written. Undoubtedly her mental infirmities have been aggravated by the experiences through which she has recently passed, but there is reason to believe that for several years she has been morally irresponsible; and it would have been vastly better for her and for many others, if she had been sent long ago to her present place of residence. There is a popular feeling that many persons sufficiently sane for liberty are unjustly placed in madhouses, and there treated with great inhumanity. The idea is an old one, and although there is infinitely less truth in it than there once was, there is some truth in it still. But whether it is exaggerated or not, there is grave reason for believing that many lunatics are left quite unrestrained, and in not a few instances unsuspected. Mrs. House's is a case in point. She was constantly doing strange things; she had that uncontrollable temper which is one of the signs of an unsound mind ; her life was erratic, and passed in constant defiance of conventionalities; and the only astonishing point is that the murder which she committed should have been her first one; Yet she was only one of hundreds hardly sane enough for freedom and yet not deemed insane enough for imprisonment. Even with ample evidence of her inability to restrain herself, she was released. Fortunately, she has done no serious mischief during her brief enlargement; but if she had, would it have

been very surprising? The superintendents of lunatic asylums complain that patients are too often brought to them only after the disease has become incurable through time or neglect. Society also has a right to complain that human lives are placed in jeopardy through the sensitive disinclination of relatives and friends to take those measures of restraint which are authorized by law. Unless a deed of violence has actually been committed by the lunatic which will give the officers of justice an opportunity of acting, he may go on for months and years, a great trouble to all, and yet considered no more than eccentric or hot-tempered. The hope of a family when one of its members is in this condition, is that he can be managed at home, and open scandal and mortification avoided. It is unpleasant to speak plainly of this erroneous course, because it is often pursued out of the deepest affection; but all the same it is erroneous and may result in frightful consequences. It is well enough understood that there is no real kindness it allowing a child always to do as it pleases; but it is not so well comprehended that it is the hight of cruelty to allow one bereft of reason the same freedom of action which is accorded, as a matter of course, to the rational. How thankful would poor Mary Lamb have been if she had been sent to a Bedlam, bad as Bedlams then were, before her irresponsible hand had taken the life of her mother! More than one unhappy homicide has awakened to intellectual consciousness only to ask in abiding wretchedness why he was permitted to do a

deed to his right mind so terrible! Meanwhile, it is for those to whose care lunatic asylums are intrusted, so far to respect public prejudices as to permit the utmost publicity consistent with good management, and to see to it that there is no real occasion for suspicions of cruelties perpetrated within the walls of their establishments. A case like that of Mrs. Gleason, if she was unnecessarily sent to Blackwell's Island, and cruelly treated there, does a great deal of harm apart from its personal minstice. What is needed is an intelligent comprehension of the subject on the part of the public, moral courage sufficient to overcome prejudices and antipathies, and such regulation of the asylums as will put an end to all except the most ignorant and perverse suspicions.

The letter we printed yesterday from W. W. S., one of the most prominent of the recent graduates of Princeton, is but a sample of many. The alumni generally complain that there has been too much begging and building and too little study, and praise THE TRIBUNE for the frankness with which it suggested to the trustees a better policy. One correspondent tells us that the students themselve have taken the matter in hand, and that within the past fortuight some of their number waited upon & professor and asked him to resign, explicitly alleging that he was incompetent to instruct them. Another suggests that the trustees should send the best talent of the college to hunt for good professors, and not for legacies among the rich and childless. The trustees have certainly good warnings. There may be doubt whether the country needs a third great university like Harvard and Yale; and Amherst, Dartmouth, Columbia, or Cornell may dispute whether, if such need exists, Princeton is in the best position to supply it, but it is plain that if she wishes to gratify this laudable ambition she must prefer men to money, and stop begging and building until she has made better preparation for teaching.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Lincoln is now living at Pau. Mr. Parke Godwin's lecture at the Yale Art

chool next Wednesday is to be on "The Theory of Art."
William Black has found a queer and not agreeable title for his new novel. It is "Green Pastures and Piccadilly." The Hon. Caleb Cushing, United States

Minister to Spain, will sail from this port for Europe in

Diaz, the painter of charming landscapes, whose name generally serves as a sort of anchor for halfcultivated renders of art catalogues, has just died at Mettone. He was 67 years old.